

LMD Regular Meeting
March 14, 2019
CNCC Room 185
4 PM

Present: Luke Tucker, Chris Jones, Rich Thompson, Randy Looper, Tammie Thompson Booker, Dave Heinrich, Michael Morriss

Guests: Andrea Camp, Tom Kleinschnitz, Michelle Valdez

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM

Minutes from January 10, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Randy Looper asked for some corrections and notes were taken to amend minutes as requested. Motion made by Randy Looper to approve with Amendments. Seconded by Michael Morriss. Motion Carried

Chris Jones presented financials as well as a spreadsheet that was prepared by Michael Morriss. Discussion on revenues collected continues as the way monies from prior months are credited to the month they were received, makes it difficult to determine if we are ahead or behind prior years. Randy Looper asked if a refund was received for EDP as it was not noted on the financials, check was sent out in December. Chris Jones stated he would speak with Mindy Curtis as it should have been sent to Moffat County already.

Chris also noted that we will need to sign the audit form. Explained the process that was presented to him by Mindy Curtis. Please update the board terms on the form if they are not correct. Board members will need to sign once resolution is approved.

Dinosaur Welcome Center Funding- Presented by Bonnie Petersen-AGNC via phone conference. Others on the phone conference were Ray Beck and Cheryl MacDonald. Request for \$13,500. Discussed the CTO potential of shutting down of Welcome Center. CTO does not pay for all expenses for the Dinosaur Welcome Center. Funded \$70,860 which was short of the original request to CTO of \$72,557. CTO doesn't pay for Propane, Electricity, Water those are typically paid by Moffat County and Town of Dinosaur. Upgrading the lighting in the center. Goal for this fiscal year was to increase pay for Cheryl's assistant to minimum wage. Welcome Center is losing volunteers due to health concerns. Must operate to the CTO Standards funding could be in jeopardy from CTO. Large support from Town of Dinosaur as well as Rio Blanco County. Typically Rio Blanco County has supported the Welcome Center for about \$2,000. Labor and maintenance are provided by Moffat County, as well as utilities and other repairs. The \$13,500 request is also to increase her assistants staff time as well as keep center open in November. This also includes lighting and other operational expenses. 25% increase in visitation in 2018 was due to sign funded by LMD previously.

Randy Looper asked about a budget. Bonnie presented the budget from AGNC not from the Welcome Center. She stated that the budget didn't include the extras such as utilities, lighting and additional staff time requested.

Bonnie has sent out requests to surrounding communities for additional volunteers. She did express her concern that the CTO could potentially take away the designation as well as state funding.

Chris Jones asked about additional funding from Town of Dinosaur due to increased tax collections. Dave Heinrich stated that is not in the plans for this current year.

Randy asked Commissioner Beck regarding funding from the County that goes to the Welcome Center. Luke asked about the monies from the county for 2019. The budget from the county is \$9,000 for 2019.

Tammie Thompson Booker asked if the Welcome Center is now short \$22,500, which includes the \$9000 that County has budgeted. Commissioner Beck asked for additional clarification and we are confused as to why it appears that it is duplication. Bonnie stated the County was not planning on paying the \$9,000 which is already in their budget for this.

Commissioner Beck and Bonnie will submit welcome center budget and this will be discussed at our next meeting in April. Ray discussed the issues of the Town of Dinosaur being able to fund for 2019 due to priority of water treatment plant that must be done.

Luke Tucker asked about money from Rio Blanco County. Bonnie stated that no monies have come from them for this year. It was for improvements to the center. Cheryl MacDonald stated it was from Enterprise Zone Money and that she did not think that was available moving forward.

Chris Jones asked for a 5 year visitation numbers from the center as well as the budget.

Bonnie stated that the pressing issue is loss of volunteers. Cheryl stated she is down several volunteers for 2019 and is down to about 10 people. Memorial Day to Labor Day open 7 days per week approximately 70 hours per week. Loss of volunteers is something that all the state centers are facing. Need to know by May regarding funding for Linda's hours.

Dave Heinrich has been volunteering 3 and 4 shifts per week. Currently we have 2 volunteers from Moffat County.

Motion to approve Audit Exemption Resolution. Second by Dave Heinrich. Motion carried.

Tammie Thompson Booker talked about the State Welcome Center funding. CTO provides the same funding for all Welcome Center's. Dinosaur Welcome Center is one of the only centers in the state that closes for a period of time. There is still support for our Welcome Center on the state level as well as the CTO Board.

Randy Looper asked about the Cornerstone Projects from the 2019 operating plan. Are we going to be the driver of the cornerstone projects or are we awaiting others to come to us. This is coming from discussions at the Chamber regarding the Welcome Center and co-location projects.

Chris Jones asked about agenda. Luke and Chris stated Tom had presented to them on the Wayfinding Project. City is committed to approximately \$62,800 and they will be coming to the board for the request.

Luke stated a request is out there for motorcycle race/endure event that he received yesterday. This will be on the next month's agenda.

Dave Heinrich mentioned he was approached by an artist's festival in Town of Dinosaur. No other details or dates. Dave explained what he would need to present to the LMD for funding requests.

Tammie Thompson Booker reminded the deadline for event funding is March 31, 2019. Deadline will not be extended. Jim Stoddard will also potentially be coming before the LMD but no details as of now.

Rich Thompson stated that the LMD Board is more of support role due to the lack of a director. We don't have the staff to drive the projects currently. Tammie Thompson Booker is LMD going to drive the feasibility study for the welcome center. Randy stated Chamber is holding on building expansion etc. as we are awaiting outcome of election, what City is going to do with economic development projects etc.

Chris Jones stated we as a board need to look to our economic future and not just be concerned about public perception. We need to determine how we can help with economic development with a future that is starkly different from what is currently is. Need to explore alternate industries either set up a committee or work with other organizations. Pleased to see community development approach the city is currently taking.

Rich Thompson stated CNCC should be taking the lead on Carbon Fiber technology. Perhaps we need to reach out to CNCC. Luke Tucker and/or Chris Jones will reach out and advise the outcome.

Public Comment:

Tom Kleinschintz gave an update on BLM Travel Management 3 public comment event that is being held in Hayden, CO today until 7 PM. Comments must be submitted to BLM by March 26, 2019. Concern of the future use of public lands and possible closure of areas including Wilderness Study Areas and Wilderness Like Characteristics. Extensive trail system in our county is an economic driver. Hate to see evaporation of our inventory.

Rich Thompson also stated this was mentioned at the Land Use Board on Monday. Concern that many trails have been submitted previously and during this TM 3 Comment period.

Tom shared a reminder of the May 4 -11 of Tourism Week and the events. JWP Event @ Echo Park June 17 and 18th. June 17th is full moon. NPS is doing an interpretive walk that night starting @ 9 PM. 2 more walks on the 18th as well as a presentation by Ray Sumptner. MCTA will be providing lunch on the 18th.

Motion to adjourn made by Tammie Thompson Booker @ 5:02 seconded by Randy Looper. Motion Carried.

